

# Numbers 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

## Analysis

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Dathan and Abiram challenge Moses: 'Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?' Their accusation inverts reality - calling Egypt (slavery) a land flowing with milk and honey while denying Canaan that description. The Hebrew 'me'at' (small/little thing) sarcastically minimizes the Exodus, showing how rebellion distorts perspective. They accused Moses of self-exaltation ('make thyself a prince') when God appointed him (Ex 3-4). This demonstrates sin's irrationality - rewriting history, inverting values, and attributing selfish motives to godly leaders. Such distorted thinking characterizes all rebellion against God-ordained authority.

## Historical Context

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This accusation came from Reubenites Dathan, Abiram, and On (v.1), who joined Korah's Levitical rebellion. Their geographic proximity (Reuben camped south of the tabernacle near Kohathite Levites) may explain their alliance. Their refusal to meet Moses (v.12-14) showed contempt for his authority. The charge that Moses wanted to 'put out' (naqar - gouge out) their eyes (v.14) suggested he was blinding them to truth - ironically, their own spiritual blindness prevented seeing God's gracious deliverance from Egypt. Their judgment - earth swallowing them alive with their families and possessions (v.31-33) - dramatically vindicated Moses.

Numbers 26:11 notes 'the children of Korah died not,' showing God's mercy amid judgment.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does sin distort your perspective, making you view blessings as burdens and God's servants as oppressors?
2. When you're tempted to rebel against authority, do you examine whether you're attributing evil motives to godly leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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הֲמַעַט ט	כִּי	הֶעֱלִיתָנוּ	מֵאֶרֶץ	זָבַח		
Is it a small thing	that	thou hast brought us up	out of a land	that floweth		
H4592	H3588	H5927	H776	H2100		
חֶלֶב	וְדָבַשׁ	לְהָמִיתָנוּ	בַּמִּדְבָּר	כִּי	הַשֹּׁתֶרֶת:	עַל יָדוֹ
with milk	and honey	to kill	us in the wilderness	that	a prince	H5921
H2461	H1706	H4191	H4057	H3588	H8323	
גַּם	הַשֹּׁתֶרֶת:					
H1571	a prince					
	H8323					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 7:35** (Parallel theme): This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

**Exodus 2:14** (Parallel theme): And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

**Exodus 16:3** (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

**Numbers 11:5** (Parallel theme): We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

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